

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-17 and 30-32.

**Claim 18** (original) Apparatus for interconnecting a plurality of parallel fuses, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a column of fuse receptacles, each of the receptacles including first and second terminals;
- (b) a first electrical conductor coupling together the first terminals of the receptacles and leading from a first end of the column of fuse receptacles; and
- (c) a second electrical conductor substantially parallel in orientation with the first electrical conductor, the second electrical conductor coupling together the second terminals of the receptacles and leading from a second end, opposite the first end, of the column of fuse receptacles.

**Claim 19** (original) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

- (a) a second column of fuse receptacles that each include third and fourth terminals;
- (b) a third electrical conductor coupling together the third terminals of the receptacles and leading from a first end of the second column of fuse receptacles; and
- (c) a fourth electrical conductor substantially parallel in orientation with the third electrical conductor, the fourth electrical conductor coupling together the fourth

terminals of the receptacles and leading from a second end, opposite the first end, of the second column of fuse receptacles.

**Claim 20 (original)** The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising first and second arrays of mating interfaces, wherein:

(a) each mating interface in the first array is coupled to an electrical conductor of a first plurality that includes the first and third electrical conductors;

(b) each mating interface in the second array is coupled to an electrical conductor of a second plurality that includes the second and fourth electrical conductors; and

(c) the first and second arrays are disposed at opposite ends of the matrix of fuse receptacles.

**Claim 21 (original)** The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the fuse receptacles are oriented substantially parallel to each other.

**Claim 22 (original)** The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:

(a) the fuse receptacles are formed as recesses in a block of rigid, substantially non-conductive material; and

(b) the first and second terminals for each respective fuse receptacle are at opposite ends of a respective recess.

**Claim 23 (original)** The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the fuse receptacles are configured to receive automotive fuses.

**Claim 24** (previously canceled)

**Claim 25** (original) Apparatus for fusing a plurality of electrical conduction paths, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a matrix of fuse receptacles having a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows, each receptacle having first and second terminals;
- (b) a first plurality of electrical conductors coupling together the first terminals of the receptacles in each column; and
- (c) a second plurality of electrical conductors coupling together the second terminals of the receptacles in each column;

whereby the fuse receptacles in each column are electrically connected in parallel.

**Claim 26** (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising first and second arrays of mating interfaces, wherein:

- (a) each mating interface in the first array is coupled to an electrical conductor of the first plurality of electrical conductors;
- (b) each mating interface in the second array is coupled to an electrical conductor of the second plurality of electrical conductors; and
- (c) the first and second arrays are disposed at opposite ends of the matrix of fuse receptacles.

**Claim 27 (original)** The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the fuse receptacles are oriented substantially parallel to each other.

**Claim 28 (original)** The apparatus of claim 25 wherein:

(a) the fuse receptacles are formed as recesses in a block of rigid, substantially non-conductive material; and

(b) the first and second terminals for each respective fuse receptacle are at opposite ends of a respective recess.

**Claim 29 (original)** The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the fuse receptacles are configured to receive automotive fuses.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned if it would in any way advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
IXOS LIMITED  
by its attorney

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